Production of alcohol out of molasses

1887. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some developing countries like Brazil are using molasses to produce alcohol used as automobile fuel which does not cause any pollution;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to adopt this technology in our country;

(c) whether Govt. have received any proposal from any industry for this project; and

(d) if not, whether Government would support this technology to avoid shortage of fuel and conserve foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) A few countries including Brazil have been using alcohol as an automobile fuel.

(b) to (d) It has been established that upto 3 per cent of methanol and 5 per cent of ethyl alcohol (ethanol) can be blended with petrol and used in vehicles without any modification of the carburettor of the engine. Similarly, ethanol or methanol can be used as a dual fuel with diesel by using additional equipment such as fuel tanks, pumps etc., which could be retrofitted to the existing vehicles. While several tests and trials have been conducted and some are continuing, the commercial use of alcohol (methanol/ethanol) as automotive fuel will depend on the sustained availability of surplus alcohol and on its techno-economic viability.

1888. (*Transferred to 14th May*, 1993).

Hypothetical exchange rates of drugs

1889. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 376 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25.2.1993 and state:

(a) the reasons due to which formulation prices were based on Rs. 4364.21 per kg; when the actual landed cost of import of Carbamezepine was Rs. 2900 and Rs. 3300 per kg. during 1990-91 and 1991-92, respectively;

(b) whether it is a fact that landed cost of import of Rs. 4364.21 per kg. is not based on the actual import price of 1990-91, 1991-92 or even 1992-93;

(c) whether it is also a fact that benefit of crores of rupees has been given to the formulations due to active support and connivance of the concerned because of the wrong application of DPCO, 1987; and

(d) what are the names of other drugs where such adjustments have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (b) and (d) The price of Rs. 4364.21 per kg. of Carbamazepine was arrived at on the basis of weighted average c.i.f. price for 1990-91 duly adjusted for fluctuations in the exchange rate and after adding countervailing duty and Custom duty as per then prevailing rates. In the case of other imported bulk drugs also the same approach was being followed.

(c) No, Sir.